



Be Whale Wise

For Paddlers in Johnstone Strait

Marine Wildlife Viewing Guidelines

Guidelines for all vessels:

1. BE CAUTIOUS and COURTEOUS: approach areas of known or suspected marine wildlife activity with extreme caution. Look in all directions before planning your approach or departure.
2. SLOW DOWN: reduce speed to less than 7 knots when within 400 metres/yards of the nearest whale. Avoid abrupt course changes.
3. KEEP CLEAR of the whales' path. If whales are approaching you, cautiously move out of the way.
4. DO NOT APPROACH whales from the front or from behind. Always approach and depart whales from the side, moving in a direction parallel to the direction of the whales.
5. DO NOT APPROACH or position your vessel closer than 100 metres/yards to any whale.
6. If your vessel is not in compliance with the 100 metres/yard approach guideline (4), place engine in neutral and allow whales to pass.
7. STAY on the OFFSHORE side of the whales when they are traveling close to shore.
8. LIMIT your viewing time to a recommended maximum of 30 minutes. This will minimize the cumulative impact of many vessels and give consideration to other viewers.
9. DO NOT swim with, touch or feed marine wildlife.

To report a marine mammal disturbance or harassment:
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 1-800-465-4336

Johnstone Strait is critical habitat for northern resident killer whales.

This area is important to killer whales for feeding and other activities. The waters within 200 metres of shore are where salmon concentrate and are extremely important feeding habitat for the whales. This area should be avoided when whales are present.

Vessels, including kayaks and other self-propelled craft, can impede killer whale activities. Although any individual vessel may have a small effect, repeated disturbance by numerous kayaks and other vessels in this area will likely have a serious effect on these animals.

Follow the Marine Wildlife Viewing Guidelines

When killer whales are in the area:

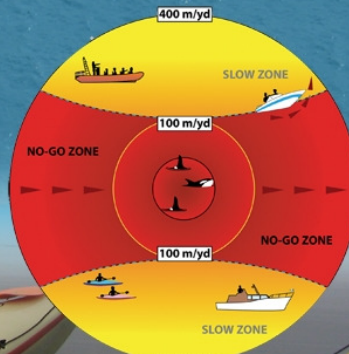
- * if possible, view the passing whales from shore
- * do not launch kayaks if killer whales are approaching and you are on shore

If you must remain on the water:

- * stay in a close group with other kayakers
- * paddle offshore at least 100m from the path of the whales or to a position tight inshore of the kelp line and out of the path of the whales

Paddler Interpretation:

6. Paddlers should continue to paddle out of the path of the whales.
7. Paddle offshore at least 100 metres from the path of the whales or to a position tight inshore of the kelp line and out of the path of the whales.



400 m/yard
 100 metres/yards
 ≈ 20 kayak lengths

